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Commercial Truck Crops

U.S. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

5 Washington, D. C.

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January 19, 1951 //

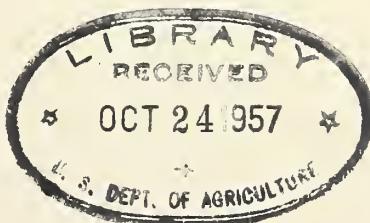
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ONION STOCKS IN STORAGE, JANUARY 1, 1951 //

Stocks of onions held by growers and dealers in or near areas of production totaled 10,752,000 fifty-pound sacks on January 1, 1951, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Current holdings are one-fifth larger than the 8,716,000 sacks on hand a year ago, 30 percent larger than the preceding ten-year average for January 1 of 8,277,000 sacks, and the largest holdings since January 1, 1947. These estimates include all onions in both common and cold storage held by growers or dealers in or near areas of production. Allowance has been made for estimated shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occurred before January 1, but the stocks estimates include quantities lost from shrinkage, waste, and other factors after January 1. Current reports indicate that shrinkage, waste, and other losses of onions in storage January 1, 1951 will be heavier than usual.

Late summer onion production in 1950 in the Eastern and Central producing areas was substantially larger than a year earlier, and most of the increase in January 1 stocks occurred in these areas. Although production was slightly less than a year earlier in the Western States, stocks are also slightly larger than last year in these States.

Rail and boat shipments of late summer onions prior to January 1, 1951 were the smallest for this period of the year since the fall of 1940. On the other hand truck shipments were the largest of record. Shrinkage, waste, and other losses prior to January 1, 1951 was larger than any year of record except during the fall of 1946. Unfavorable prices during the harvest season resulted in a relatively large quantity of onions being left in the fields unharvested, and also resulted in heavy cullage of the harvested onions that were sold. The large crop coupled with the unfavorable market situation resulted in an unusually large quantity going into storage -- in many cases into inadequate facilities where shrinkage and waste to January 1 has been heavier than usual. Unharvested production, heavy cullage, shrinkage, and waste of onions placed in storage account for nearly one-fourth of the total disappearance to January 1 this year.



ONIONS: Stocks held by growers and dealers in or near areas of production, by States, January 1, 1951, with comparisons

STATE	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	STATE	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	
	1940-49	1950		1940-49	1950	1951	
	Revised	Prelim.		Revised	Prelim.		
	1,000 sacks	1/-		1,000 sacks	1/-		
Massachusetts	51	40	19	Colorado	1,375	1,400	1,115
New York	2,124	1,836	2,830	Utah	205	157	150
Pennsylvania	3	---	---	Nevada	72	72	240
EASTERN	2,178	1,876	2,849	California	385	540	460
Ohio	167	80	117	Idaho	561	930	1,153
Indiana	266	242	220	Oregon	789	1,000	1,050
Illinois	187	204	199	Malheur Co.	350	600	600
Michigan	1,367	980	2,000	Other	650	450	450
Wisconsin	283	311	429	Washington	84	32	122
Minnesota	320	788	560	Arizona	2/	4	1
Iowa	32	103	87	WESTERN	3,475	4,131	4,291
Kansas	2/	7	1	TOTAL	8,277	8,716	10,752
CENTRAL	2,624	2,709	3,612	19 STATES			

ONIONS: Production, stocks January 1 following year, and disappearance to January 1 in 19 Late Summer States, Crops of 1938 to 1950

CROP	YEAR	STOCKS		DISAPPEARANCE TO JANUARY 1											
		PRODUCTION	JANUARY 1	In	By Motor	Shrink	% of disappearance	Carlots	Truck &	age	Carlots	Motor	Shrink		
		As % of	Total	Carlots	Truck &	age		Carlots	Motor	Shrink	by Rail	Local	Waste	Rail & Truck &	age
		Sacks	Sacks	Total	by Rail	Local		Sales	etc.	Boat	Local	Waste	Sales	etc.	
		4/	1/	tion	and Boats	Sales	4%	4%	etc.	Boat	Local	Waste	Sales	etc.	
														Percent	
					1,000 Sacks	1/-									
1938	23,514	7,166	30.5	16,348	6,588	6,648	3,112	40	41	41	19				
1939	28,591	8,592	30.1	19,999	6,484	9,827	3,688	32	49	49	19				
1940	25,676	8,270	32.2	17,406	5,342	8,992	3,072	31	52	52	17				
1941	24,628	6,834	27.7	17,794	7,362	8,046	2,386	41	45	45	14				
1942	27,472	8,332	30.3	19,140	9,368	6,716	3,056	49	35	35	16				
1943	22,999	5,738	24.9	17,261	8,992	6,761	1,508	52	39	39	9				
1944	35,575	11,519	32.4	24,056	11,982	7,976	4,098	50	33	33	17				
1945	27,722	5,925	21.4	21,797	10,690	8,000	3,107	49	37	37	14				
1946	38,607	10,944	28.3	27,663	10,187	9,542	7,934	37	34	34	29				
1947	26,310	6,518	24.8	19,792	9,794	7,357	2,641	50	37	37	13				
1948	31,757	10,102	31.8	21,655	8,125	9,626	3,904	38	44	44	18				
1949	29,656	8,716	29.4	20,940	8,565	8,997	3,378	41	43	43	16				
1950	33,623	10,752	32.0	22,871	6,079	11,335	5,457	27	49	49	24				

1/ Sacks containing 50 pounds.

2/ Kansas, 5-year average--1945-49; Arizona, 7-year average--1943-49.

3/ Includes cold storage holdings in or near areas of production.

4/ Includes in some years quantities that were not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors.



